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This issue of Viet Nam Courier exceptionally contains 12 pages. Our readers will find:
- On pages 5, 6, 7: Documents on the Congress of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.
- On page 8: South Viet Nam N.F.L.'s puppet troops and personnel salaries.

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STATEMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE D.R.V.N. REGARDING THE LEVEL, PLACE AND TIME OF THE FORMAL TALKS BETWEEN THE D.R.V.N. AND THE UNITED STATES

AS is known, for a correct solution of the Viet Nam problem, the Vietnamese people have adopted an unswerving position, namely the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

On March 31, 1968, U.S. President L.B. Johnson announced the "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam, and once again expressed a desire to enter into talks with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

On April 3, 1968, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued a statement making clear its stand and attitude on this subject, and its readiness to appoint its representative to contact the U.S. representative.

But due to the lack of a serious attitude on the part of the U.S. Government, contacts which are to lead to talks between the two sides have not begun as yet. After professing "readiness to go anywhere" for talks with Hanoi, the U.S. President has put forward conditions after conditions for the choice of a site with a view to rejecting Phnom Penh and Warsaw, suggested by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The U.S. side has also proposed places inconsistent with its own conditions. Of late, it raised a new question suggesting that the two parties hold private discussions on the place and time of the contacts; and they should accordingly choose one more place for those private discussions. To show its good will, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam instructed its ambassador to Warsaw to stand ready to enter into discussions with the U.S. ambassador on the place and time of the talks. But the U.S. side also refused.

In the meantime, the United States has kept intensifying its air and naval bombardment on an important part of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and has pursued other acts of war against North Viet Nam; it has also made every effort to step up its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, perpetrating new crimes of utmost barbarity against the Vietnamese people.

One month has elapsed since the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued the above-mentioned statement. Preliminary contacts which are to lead to talks between the two sides should have been held. But the U.S. government has deliberately resorted to discriminatory manoeuvres.

In face of such a situation, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is of the view that formal talks between Hanoi and Washington should be held without delay. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has decided to appoint Minister Nuam Thi as its representative to enter into formal talks with the U.S. government's representative, with a view to ascertaining with the U.S. side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and then discussing other problems of concern to the two sides. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam welcomes the French Government's willingness to let Paris serve as site for talks between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States, as stated by the French Foreign Minister Mr. Couve de Murville on April 18, 1968. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam considers Phnom Penh, like Warsaw, to be a suitable place for formal talks between the two sides. These formal talks will begin on May 10, 1968 or a few days thereafter.

The U.S. government must positively respond to the goodwill attitude of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and stop all discriminatory manoeuvres so that formal talks may start at an early date.

Progressive American opinion and world opinion resolutely demand that the U.S. government unconditionally stop the bombing raids and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and bring its aggression in Viet Nam to an end. So long as the United States obediently pursues its war of aggression, the Vietnamese people will carry their ranks, determined to fight till total victory for the independence and freedom of the fatherland, for peace in South-East Asia and the world.

May 3, 1968

South Viet Nam

MANY U.S. PUPPET POSITIONS AND BASES IN RURAL AND URBAN CENTRES ATTACKED

SAIGON AND PERIPHERY

After their successful attacks on May 3 on the T.V. station and psychwar organs of the enemy, on the night of May 4, the P.L.A.F. hammered at many important positions in Saigon city and surroundings such as Phu Lam (south-west quarter), the Phu Tho Ho race-course, the new harbour, the Police HQ, the administrative offices, the U.S. Army radio station, etc..

Attacks were also mounted against Tan Son Nhut air-base as well as the U.S. base at Bien Hoa and Long Binh, some thirty kilometres northeast of Saigon.

The U.S. and quidnigs suffered heavy damage. The roads leading to Saigon were cut off. The battle around Saigon is still going on.

HUE-DA NANG

Also on the night of May 4, many enemy positions in Hue city, the U.S. base at Phu Bai, the HQ of Gen. Kien, commanding U.S. forces in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, were the targets of violent attacks by the P.L.A.F.

Meanwhile the P.L.A.F. artillery in Da Nang pounded U.S. bases, airfield, helicopter park and the HQ of Gen. Cushman, commanding the U.S. marines in South Viet Nam.

Farther southeast, Hoi An town and the U.S. base at Chu Lai respectively zokm and Sokm from Da Nang were shelled.

QUANG TRI

After victorious battles on April 29 and May 3 around Dong Ha town, rear-base of Khe Sanh sector on Highway 9, which ended with over 2,000 casualties (killed and wounded) for the enemy, the P.L.A.F. on the night of May 4, stormed Dong Ha, Quang Tri town and its airfield, U.S. base at La Vang and Ai Tu airfield respectively in the south-east and 6km northwest of Quang Tri.

In total, on the night of May 4, from the northernmost provinces to the southernmost region of South Viet Nam, 122 enemy positions were attacked by the P.L.A.F., according to information we have received.

Upholding Just Stand and Goodwill Attitude

EAGER to put an end to the war in Viet Nam, the world people are closely following the deeds of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the U.S. government in seeking a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam question, and the following conclusion has been reached by broad public opinion: the attitude of the D.R.V.N. is one of goodwill, whereas the U.S. government so far has shown no sign of goodwill.

In the Address to the Nation he made in Washington on March 31 U.S. President Johnson announced a "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam and, at the same time, called on the D.R.V.N. Government "to respond positively and favourably." He said: "We ask that talks begin promptly... We are prepared to move immediately toward peace through negotiations... Now, as in the past, the United States is ready to send its representatives to any forum, at any time, to discuss the means of bringing this war to an end..." It should be noted that in declaring the readiness of the U.S. to go (any place, at any time) President Johnson merely repeated an old

statement of the U.S. Government, which had been referred to over a dozen times in the past years by he himself and his Secretary of State. This statement has also been consistently used by the U.S. Government as the main theme in its noisy propaganda play of "goodwill for peace."

In reply to the U.S. President's March 31 address, the D.R.V.N. Government on April 3 issued a statement pointing to the ever heavier defeats of the U.S. imperialists in their war of aggression in Viet Nam and, at the same time, reiterating the just, unswerving stand of the Vietnamese people to resolutely regain independence and freedom. The statement pointed out that the "limited bombing" was but a reflection of the defeats sustained by the U.S. in Viet Nam and on the other hand, a move by the U.S. Government to

soothe public opinion now protesting against the U.S.

It is clear that the decision of the U.S. Government has not fully met the just demands of the Vietnamese people, progressive people in the United States and the world people in general. Yet, the D.R.V.N. Government declared its readiness to appoint its representative to contact the U.S. representative with a view to ascertaining with the American side the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam so that talks may start.

This statement of the D.R.V.N. Government has been warmly welcomed by broad public opinion in the world. The support given by the peoples of various countries to the stand of goodwill of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Vietnamese people has become stronger ever since the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry proposed that preliminary contacts between representatives of the D.R.V.N. and the U.S. be held in Phnom Penh where, only early this year, a representative of

(Continued page 3)

Page 4:

P.L.A.F. Command
Fifth Special Communique

NORTH VIET NAM APRIL 1968: 55 US Planes Downed (13 by Rural Militia Small Arms)

THE first month of "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam has cost Lt. Johnson 55 jets downed, 3 war vessels burnt and another one sunk by the enemy.

The planes downed included 28 F4 Phantom fighter-bombers, many F105 Thunderchiefs and one variable-gear bomber, F111-A planes knocked out of the air. With 8 planes bagged, April 15 was the most brilliant day.

The small arms of rural militia knocked down 13 super sonic jets. Within 4 minutes on April 15, two F4 Phantom jets were grounded by the militia of two villages of Quang Binh province near Vinh city. Militiamen of two villages of Quang Binh province blasted to pieces 2 Phantoms on the night of April 24.

Quang Binh province alone were credited with 29 planes (including the 400th brought down locally), and burnt 3 war vessels.

UP TO MAR 4, 1968
2,886 U.S. planes were downed

WILL there be another Dien Bien Phu in Viet Nam? This question nagged the military staffs: many a journalist or commentator has tried hard to find an answer.

A hollow hemmed in by inaccessible mountains, an enormous entrenched camp, artillery hauled by the strength of men's arms to high crests, a long siege with dramatic episodes, acrobatic parachuting, long columns and ammunition, long columns of carriers wading hundreds of kilometres to bring supplies to a whole army — these images are now part of the Dien Bien Phu "saga."

Images that are evocative and stirring, and which may warp one's reasoning, if one does not go beyond their surface.

For, in order to understand Dien Bien Phu, one must look beyond the surface where on May 7, 1954, the crack units of the French expeditionary corps had to capitulate before an apparently much weaker adversary: beyond the Dien Bien Phu battle, there was the Dien Bien Phu campaign, or rather the spring campaign of 1953-1954, which encompassed the whole territory of Indo-China.

When the latter half of 1953 began, the French Commander-in-Chief, General Navarre, having received important reinforcements in men and weapons from France and the United States, thought he would be able to launch a bold offensive operation, to destroy the Viet Nam's Vietnamese regular forces, while Bao Dai's puppet army, better equipped, would take the "order and security" in the rear areas. It was the minor strategy: on the one hand "search-and-destroy" operations, and on the other, "pacification" at the end of the campaign, "negotiations" from a position of strength, which was tantamount to the adversary's capitulation.

Navarre thought he enjoyed decisive advantages over the Vietnamese resistance: firepower, mobility, air support would bring into full play. With important means at his disposal, as early as September 1953, he launched several operations in various

directions. Dien Bien Phu was conceived as a veritable trap where large part of the large-scale regular forces would be lured into and then destroyed. The Navarre plan looked flawless, strategically and tactically; in particular, all experts and specialized services had come to the conclusion that it could be absolutely impossible for the Vietnamese resistance to fight a protracted battle in the mountainous Dien Bien Phu. Until then, the attacked posts had only been a garrison of up to battalion size, in night battles that lasted until dawn. Dien Bien Phu was defended by 21 French battalions and the battle was to last 55 days and nights.

When it picked out the Dien Bien Phu basin, the French Command did not commit a tactical error, because for the Viet Nam People's Army, neither aircraft, nor armour, nor modern means of transport, to operate at 400-kilometre distances from its bases and attack the enemy's entrenched positions under enemy artillery and air pounding—the hollow being in fact a 18-km wide and 6-km-wide valley—constituted a seemingly insoluble problem.

The French Command's error was one of judgment, the under-estimation of the Vietnamese resistance's capability, as a result of its development, the people's war had entered a new phase, and it solved new problems.

In the first place, regional and local guerrilla units, seasoned to victoriously resist the French's offensive operations, and this had freed the regulars from defensive tasks, the under-estimation of the French Command thus got great manoeuvring freedom, the French Command was on the horns of an insoluble dilemma: if it occupied territories,

communications, supply lines and rear areas were subjected to repeated violent attacks. Air transport, in particular, was continuously struck at. Meanwhile Operation Bao Dai came to a halt. The regular forces and training of a puppet army running into insurmountable difficulties. The American and international opinion could not be imperative demands for peace. The French Government's financial position worsened and other pressing problems cropped up.

For its part, the Vietnamese resistance had seen its political prestige grow rapidly: the launching of land reform in 1953 made it possible to mobilize millions of peasants and instilled new enthusiasm into the people's army.

The French Command thus waged the Dien Bien Phu campaign, then battle, which it had lost the strategic initiative and while the political situation was favourable, there remained in its hands tactical and technical triumph. In fact, a 18-km wide and 6-km-wide valley—constituted a seemingly insoluble problem.

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American arms: helicopters, amphibious cars, artillery, electronic apparatuses, planes, none of these has proved itself to be the magic wand capable of winning the decision.

The people's war, with the massive participation of the population, the use of various armed forces—regular, regional and local forces—has attained a most advanced level. Wherever an American or puppet command dares to venture, it runs the risk of destruction. Whenever an American base is established, it is bound to be attacked. The American Command, despite of the available means, has not been able to overcome the contradiction between the need to scatter its forces to defend its bases and rear areas, and that of concentrating them into powerful offensive units. The spectacle of Westmoreland shuffling his Air Cav around, from one end of South Viet Nam to the other, is a vivid illustration of the situation in which the American arms find itself.

A new fact: the people's forces have brought their offensive operations into the very heart of the cities, a weapon the people have been able to do at the time of Dien Bien Phu. The central organs of the American and puppet armies and administrations may be attacked any time, a risk that the Americans did not know in their time. Whereas the French were unable to set up an effective puppet army, the Americans are even more powerless to do so, with a completely organized and demoralized army.

In 1954, Navarre was still a large-scale regular forces, now Westmoreland's regular forces, in the dark, where the next blows of the N.F.L. will be struck. The American forces run the risk of being overwhelmed near the border of South Viet Nam. In the neighbourhood of Saigon, the American forces run the risk of being overwhelmed near the border of South Viet Nam. In the neighbourhood of Saigon, the American forces run the risk of being overwhelmed near the border of South Viet Nam.

If Washington persists in prolonging the war, inevitable bloody defeats await the American forces. The American forces run the risk of being overwhelmed near the border of South Viet Nam. In the neighbourhood of Saigon, the American forces run the risk of being overwhelmed near the border of South Viet Nam.

(To get a good grasp of Dien Bien Phu, please read *Vietnamese Studies* No 3: *Contribution to the History of Dien Bien Phu*)

farmers, seeds, farming techniques, protection of plants, animal husbandry, veterinary, agricultural engineering.

● Despite the war, the output value of engineering goods of Hanoi city has increased 10 per cent in 1963 and 45 per cent in 1965. In the periphery of the country, irrigation work has made it possible to water 85 per cent of the planting area. Rice output reached over 5 tons per hectare per year (two crops).

● Over the past few years, various levels within the State College has trained over 5,300 economists. In the past, the State College has been opening a school to raise on the job the standards of the economic cadres. The second year of the training programme of 80 students in 1965, the highest number in the past.

● Of late, the State Committee of Science and Technology has held a conference on scientific researches conducted in agriculture, forestry, industry, and commerce. Most of the reports made at the conference gave concrete results of the researches and reflected the scientific activities for the development of production. The conference was held in Hanoi, since 1961, the people's forces have victoriously faced all

THE NORTH GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH ELECTIONS TO PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

ELECTIONS to people's councils at autonomous region, province and municipality levels are taking place on Sunday, April 28, 1968 in the whole of the D.R.V.N.

Very heavy polling was reported. It was 99.88 per cent in Hanoi, in Hai Tinh province which, on that day, recorded 158 U.S. air raids, 99 per cent of the voters went to the polls.

Answering a question put by the Japanese journalist Kawa, Mr. Truong Chinh, member of the Politburo of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and Chairman of the D.R.V.N. National Assembly Standing Committee, said: "The U.S. war of destruction against the D.R.V.N. can in no way hinder the Vietnamese from exercising their right, as

masters of their own country. The elections to the Hanoi city people's council provided a good illustration. On the importance of the elections, Mr. Truong Chinh said: "For the people, being Vietnamese, have to accomplish two heavy but glorious tasks: combat the U.S. aggressors in both North and South Viet Nam and continue building socialism in the North."

"Voting which took place at a moment when the U.S. aggressors and their valets were inflicting the growth of this state farm, the building of whose material and technical base continues unabated. The plain of Hong Cong which had been parcelled out into hundreds of unequal small plots before the U.S. aggressors began to attack, is now possible the application of intensive culture. Before the war, the plain was a rice variety suitable to the soil, and climatic conditions of this region. Now another has been developed which is more suitable to the characteristics: small size, capability of resisting strong gusts of wind which frequently sweep the region, thin foliage which needs little watering, and low productivity. The farm is self-

U.S. is attacking, massively and savagely, various areas of dense population from the 17th to the 24th parallels, causing serious losses of life and property to the people. The number of sorties by U.S. aircraft and the tonnage of explosives dumped on this vast southern part of the territory of the D.R.V.N. in April doubles that in previous corresponding periods. Meanwhile, air reconnaissance is being conducted intensively over the rest of North Viet Nam, including Hanoi.

THE actions taken by the U.S. to continue intensifying the war in Viet Nam, and the broad sympathy now have made the world's people see more clearly that the U.S. Government is not prepared "to move immediately" toward peace, as has been "overstating" by the Johnson. On orders from the U.S. Government, the American propaganda machine has been ordered to intensify its attacks on the South Viet Nam, and the American propaganda machine has been ordered to intensify its attacks on the South Viet Nam.

THE just stand of the Vietnamese people has been very clearly expressed in the April 3 statement of the D.R.V.N. Government. So long as the U.S. goes on with its aggressive policy, the Vietnamese people, responding to the call of President Ho Chi Minh, will fight with resolve to liberate South Viet Nam, and to defend North Viet Nam, and to set the people's reunification of their Fatherland. To settle the Viet Nam

UNDER the plan for economic and cultural development of the Highlands, the Dien Bien Phu veterans and youths from the former battlefield of Dien Bien Phu State farm has been done at the cost of much energy. They had a good harvest. The State farm supplied 50 tons of seeds to various provinces of North Viet Nam and to the brother Republic of Cuba.

In 1967, rice output of Dien Bien Phu farm increased by 26 per cent over pre-war years. The fields of A plain yielded 7,773 kilograms of paddy per hectare on the average. Coffee recorded a boost of 1.6 per cent. The production of pork also increased substantially.

SWINEHERD Tran Cong Thuy, 49, is a Dien Bien Phu veteran. Taking great care of his 200 pigs, he has built for them a comfortable and safe place. The pigsty was riddled with bomb and shell splinters but none of his animals was killed. Not being able to rejoice in his success because he dedicated himself to his work. He said, "I must go to the front to fight. I am fatter quickly so that our fighters have enough meat to eat." He was awarded a Labour Order third class.

Mother of 4 small children, Nguyen Thi Thuy, 38, at night in a hydraulic team.

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THE just stand of good-will of the D.R.V.N. Government concerning talks with the U.S. has been received with broad sympathy and support from the world. In keeping with this correct stand, the D.R.V.N. Government is running current negotiations with the U.S. Government, pointing out that: "The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is of the view that formal talks between Hanoi and Washington should be held without delay. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has decided to appoint Minister Xuan Thuy as its representative to attend formal talks with the U.S. Government's representative, on the basis of the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and to discuss other problems of concern to the two sides. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam welcomes the French Government's willingness to talk for talks between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

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DIEN BIEN PHU
in the Midst of
American Aggression

There are many more of such examples. I have an idea of the Dien Bien Phu state farm, a better idea of the entry by the head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. permanent representative in Hanoi in the Guester Book on his visit to the farm: "You who have fought in these localities, are now, by the sweat of your brow and creative labour, making what was the Dien Bien Phu battlefield prosper. Your achievements strengthen our confidence; our Western High Plateau of the Southwest of Trung Hu region, counterpart of the area to which Dien Bien Phu belongs—devastated by the war, the fields will grow green again as Dien Bien Phu. The enemy are kicked out of our Fatherland."

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P.L.A.F. COMMAND THE SPECIAL COMBO

IN 75 DAYS (Up to April 15) SOUTH VIET NAM ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE VIOLENTLY ROCKED AMERICAN-PUPPET MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SET-UP TO ITS FOUNDATIONS

- 200,000 Enemy Troops Killed, Wounded or Captured, Including 60,000 G.I.'s and Foreign Mercenaries.
- 3 Motorized Regiments, a Multi-Battalion Unit of Paratroops, 73 Battalions, 270 Companies and 10 Armoured Squadrons Wiped Out or Decimated.
- 3,500 Planes and Helicopters Downed or Destroyed, 2,380 Tanks and Armoured Cars Set Afire or Put out of Order, 339 War Vessels and Craft Sunk or Destroyed.

THE Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Army (P.L.A.F.) issued on April 20 its fifth special communiqué on the great, all-sided victories gained by the patriotic armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in the current general offensive and widespread uprisings.

The communiqué, released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, said that up to April 15, in 75 days and nights, the P.L.A.F. and its puppets in South Viet Nam launched a series of general offensives and widespread uprisings, the South Viet Nam patriotic armed forces and people violently shook the military, political and economic set-up of the U.S. and its puppets in South Viet Nam to its foundations.

The communiqué announced that during this 75-day period, the South Viet Nam patriotic armed forces and people: — Killed, wounded or captured more than 200,000 enemy troops, including 60,000 American aggressors and satellite soldiers; — Wiped out or decimated more than 3 motorized regiments, one multi-battalion paratroop unit, 73 battalions, 270 companies and 10 armoured squadrons;

— Shot down or destroyed on the ground 2,380 aircraft, destroyed or damaged 2,380 tanks or armoured cars, thousands of other military vehicles;

— Sank or set afire 330 warships or combat launches, destroyed 348 artillery pieces, blew up 400 bridges;

— Liberated vast rural areas and destroyed hundreds of thousands of puppet troops.

The communiqué continued: Up to April 15, 1968, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people staged for 75 days relentless attacks and continual uprisings. Impelled forward by an avalanche of the people's revolutionary spirit, the South Viet Nam revolution is experiencing a new development, has won unprecedentedly great and all-sided victories and is surging ahead toward complete victory.

On all battlefields from Quang Tri, Thua Thien to Ca Mau, we have completely annihilated one exploit after another. After striking repeated crushing blows at the enemy in all cities, provincial capitals, district capitals, key organs,

airfields, storages and communication lines in the early days of this Spring, our armed forces and people, promoting their offensives and uprisings, have consolidated and developed the achievements already recorded and at the same time fought off all enemy frantic counter-attacks.

The successes scored in those 75 days marked long strides forward of our armed forces and people. Heavy defeats of the enemy offensives were inflicted, tilting the balance of forces in our favour.

They have clearly demonstrated that we, in a period when the general offensive is taking place, are winning more and more frequently as attacks are mounted. In the said 75 days we displayed a very high combat efficiency: the number of enemy troops put to flight was equal to the total number of the enemy in the whole of 1967, or four-fifths of that in 1966 and exceeded the figure in 1965.

In terms of units, the enemy almost had to rebuild one battalion a day. The number of enemy planes shot down or destroyed on the ground in the past 75 days was equal to the total adverse losses in 1966 or those of the five years 1961-1965 put together. The number of enemy armoured cars destroyed was equal to the total in the six years 1961-1966.

The past 75 days were marked by the following features:

1. Our offensive continued to consolidate and develop. Many places previously regarded by the enemy as safe were attacked. The cities and towns and the communication lines of the enemy continued to be under great pressure.

2. The enemy were attacked everywhere. In the mountain regions they were badly battered from Khe Sanh to the eastern part of Nam Bo; in the plains they suffered defeats from Quang Tri to Ca Mau, and in the cities and towns our guns kept spitting fire both in the daytime and at night, striking panic into the enemy ranks. The latter were attacked and annihilated in many places, their fortifications. Our armed forces and people devised new

methods of attack to which the enemy were unable to react effectively.

3. All our forces attacked the enemy in all directions. Our guards and regional armed forces gave battle to them everywhere, adding to the devastating blows dealt by our regular forces.

Our general offensive and widespread uprisings not only caused heavy losses in lives and war material to the enemy, but also violently rocked the military, political and economic set-up of the U.S. and its puppets to its foundations. Within only a short period of time, our general offensive and uprisings have forced on the U.S. and its puppets the following hard decisions:

First: Removal of general Westernland prompted by the U.S.-puppets' heavy defeats. This constituted most vivid illustration of the total failure of the U.S. strategy and tactics of the dissonance within the American ruling circles and of U.S. troops' cracking morale.

Second: Johnson's dropping out of the race for the White House and announcement of the "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam. Although this is only a play to soothe public opinion in the U.S., it has nevertheless spelt out the ignominious setback of the U.S. policy of aggression in Viet Nam.

Johnson had to make some statements because public feeling in the world and the U.S. was running higher and higher against the U.S. policy of aggression in Viet Nam, and because the U.S. ruling circles were seriously divided and this state of things obviously resulted from the U.S. failure in Viet Nam.

Now, Johnson is again faced with fresh difficulties. He is under even stronger fire and the United States is torn by still more bitter differences between the two main camps. The rejection of the D.R.V.N.'s suggestions for a site for U.S.-U.S. preliminary contacts.

Third: The ranks of the enemy were plunged into a state of confusion, its offensive and uprisings of the armed forces and people were leading to a precarious line completely dependent on U.S. aid.

Fourth: The enemy was exposed the clique of traitors from head to heel. They can no longer deceive the people and have lost all political support. They now can survive only thanks to guns and bayonets.

All U.S. henchmen are bewildered before their gloomy prospects. Some have made preparations to pack up and go abroad. Their ruling apparatus as a whole has been dislocated. They are seeking to liquidate one another and are poisoning on those who will not swim and sink with them; the more they become transparent.

The puppet administration at the grassroots has fundamentally disintegrated, while the provincial and district chiefs are trying to get a new lease of life in a number of U.S. students, capitalists and district towns. As for the Thien-Ky clique, they are divided by internal strife.

The whole structure of the puppet administration is in utter disintegration. Mistrust is developing between the U.S. and its puppets. The American people's movement against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and demand better living conditions and democracy, and the world people's movement against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam, has added confusion to the U.S. political situation.

Fourth: All counter-attacks of the enemy were beaten off by our armed forces and people. They mustered all their strength to mount a series of operations such as *Certain Victory*, *Complete Victory*, *Pagassi*.

But they were only the desperate convulsions of the U.S.-puppets in the flames of people's war which will ultimately burn them to ashes.

the dollar, the escalation of the war of destruction in North Viet Nam and the U.S. stalemate in South Viet Nam. The American gold reserves are dwindling fast.

These failures are so obvious that the U.S. ruling circles are trying to conceal them; the more they become transparent.

The U.S. and its puppets are confronted with an agonizing dilemma: either they intensify or widen the war of aggression in Viet Nam, or they find hard to draft more manpower and will certainly plunge the South Vietnamese people into a catastrophe or they put an end to the war then this puppet administration will be brought to an end.

On the military plane, the U.S. and its puppets are losing more than a million U.S. satellite and puppet troops like a sound flogging.

In their messages of congratulations to the Congress, organizations affiliated to the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. acclaimed the Congress, assured it of their total confidence, declared their willingness to implement all the decisions of the Congress and placed their trust in the Central Committee of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. to be elected by the Congress.

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These steps of the Congress were aimed at working out a unified line and unifying the organizations of various alliances which had emerged and were vigorously developing in the towns, so as to give the fullest possible scope to their effectiveness and role, thus making an active contribution to the nation-wide struggle to save the country.

Attending the Congress were members of the Preparatory Committee of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. coming from Saigon, personalities, intellectuals, students, writers, newsmen, industrialists, businessmen, officers, civil servants, etc., representing a very diverse patriotic and democratic forces of different political leanings and religious beliefs, political parties and mass organizations.

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Authorized by the Congress, Mr. Lam Van Tet officially proclaimed the Manifesto.

The Congress maintained with unanimity that for more than a decade now the U.S. imperialists had been intervening more and more deeply in South Viet Nam and blatantly sabotaging the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. They had created a series of puppet governments, from Ngo Dinh Diem to Nguyen Cao Ky, launched a war of aggression against the South Vietnamese people with a view to perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam and destroying the independence of the South Viet Nam into a new type colony of the U.S.

Since 1965, to save the South Viet Nam from the danger of total collapse, the U.S. government has been intensifying its aggression, committing in mass hundreds of thousands of U.S. expeditionary troops and thousands of its allies to the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, and at the same time waging a war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The people of South Viet Nam have been fighting with unequalled courage and have won greater and greater victories. Since the beginning of the Spring of 1968 when they struck decisive blows at the U.S. driving it and its flunkies into a serious stalemate in both South and North Viet Nam.

The unjust war of the U.S. imperialists has been strongly condemned by the people of the world over, the American people included.

Through sustained heavy setbacks, the U.S. imperialists, stubborn and perfidious as they are, continue their peace frauds while unceasingly escalating the war.

To end the war, restore peace, win back independence and national sovereignty, rebuild South Viet Nam into an independent, free, peaceful, neutral and prosperous State with a view to the peaceful reunification of the country through constitutional and democratic means between the South and the North on an equal basis.

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From these movements a political front has gradually emerged, the National Front of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. This front, composed of a wide range of political and religious organizations, have joined in growing numbers in the anti-U.S. movements for peace, independence, national sovereignty and democracy.

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At a time when the South Viet Nam liberation revolution has entered a new stage in which our armed forces and people are mounting continuous offensive and uprisings everywhere, expanding new unprecedented victories and pushing forward toward final victory, a congress is held for delegates of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces to define the Alliance's political position, work out its program of action, and elect its Central Committee. This is a political event of great importance at the present juncture, marking a new, very significant development of the great solidarity bloc of our entire people in struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. It also marks the complete bankruptcy of the neo-colonialist war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, and the violent isolation and nonrecognition of the puppet administration. The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. solemnly extends to the congress its warm greetings and wishes it a brilliant success.

For the past 13 years now, we South Vietnamese, strengthened by our solidarity, have valiantly labored to arm and learn, to fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the traitorous puppet administration, successively joining all their aggressive schemes and plans and winning one victory after another. The general offensive and widespread uprisings of our armed forces and people have recorded unprecedentedly great and all-sided successes. The main feature of the present situation is: our people are gaining big victories and, carried over by these victories, are entering a glorious stage of the U.S. imperialists' failure has become evident and the traitorous puppet Thien-Ky administration is disintegrating and will certainly be overthrown by the entire South Vietnamese people.

The great victories of our people are the victories of the strength of their solidarity and their spirit of persistent and unflinching struggle, of their ardent love for the country and their deep hatred for the enemy. These are the victories of a people who, at one heart and one mind from the South to the North, are fighting shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy. These are also the victories of the ever stronger sympathy and support given the Vietnamese people by the world people, including the progressive people in the United States.

The N.F.L. expresses its great gratification at the setting up of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. which will surely make a glorious contribution to our people's struggle for national liberation. Now in their pangs of death, the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the traitorous puppet administration are committing a series of utterly bankrupt and heinous very perfidious schemes in the hope of reversing their losing situation. But, nothing can check the advance of our people toward complete victory.

The South Viet Nam N.F.L. attaches great importance to the emergence and activities of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. It firmly believes that at this stirring glorious stage of our people's struggle for national liberation, the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. will make valuable contributions to the further broadening of the United National Front against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and Vietnamese traitors, thus playing a glorious role in our people's legitimate struggle for independence, freedom, peace and well-being.

True to its unswerving policy of uniting the largest possible sections of the people in the fight against the common enemy, the N.F.L. will unite and side with all A.P.A. in the struggle for the sacred national rights now as well as in national construction in the future.

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TO MARCH TO THE COMMAND

OF CONGRESS OF VIET NAM ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES

THE All-South Viet Nam Congress of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces (V.N.A.N.D.P.F.) met on April 20 and 21 at a locally near Saigon-Cholon area to elect the Central Committee of the Alliance and made public a manifesto defining the position and specifying a program of action of the Alliance.

These steps of the Congress were aimed at working out a unified line and unifying the organizations of various alliances which had emerged and were vigorously developing in the towns, so as to give the fullest possible scope to their effectiveness and role, thus making an active contribution to the nation-wide struggle to save the country.

Attending the Congress were members of the Preparatory Committee of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. coming from Saigon, personalities, intellectuals, students, writers, newsmen, industrialists, businessmen, officers, civil servants, etc., representing a very diverse patriotic and democratic forces of different political leanings and religious beliefs, political parties and mass organizations.

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INDEPENDENCE — DEMOCRACY — PEACE

NATIONAL SALVATION MANIFESTO OF VIET NAM ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES

Fellow countrymen,

FOR nearly one quarter of a century, while many countries in the world have been living and building in peace and freedom, we South Vietnamese, have been a victim of one foreign aggressor after another, and have not enjoyed a single day of tranquility. From across the Pacific, over half a million troops of the United States have poured in massive contingents into South Viet Nam. Together with their allied forces and over half a million troops of the Saigon stooge administration they have been waging a brutal war of aggression unparalleled in our history.

This prolonged war has seriously affected all aspects of the material and spiritual life of our countrymen and caused so much suffering in rural and urban areas as well. Bombs, shells and toxic chemicals have devastated villages, dwellings, fields, gardens, towns, destroyed so many families, and caused so many deaths and maimings.

The economy is at a standstill and is decaying; agriculture, the vital sector of the national economy, is being ruined; industry stagnates, currency increasingly depreciates, life is extremely hard, unemployment rampant. We, South Vietnamese, are living in dire misery.

On top of that, social evils and a dreadfully depraved culture, prostitution, looting, thievery, rape, are daily and even hourly tearing to shreds the fabric of the present life, and undermining the future of our nation. For any person with some conscience and national spirit left, these distressing facts are a cause for sorrow and concern.

The presence of foreign troops, which brazenly trample upon our national sovereignty, deeply hurt the self-respect of our nation, a nation endowed with a tradition of heroism, which has sworn "to accept every sacrifice rather than to lose independence and accept slavery," and which have recorded so many glorious feats of arms in their history of struggle against foreign invasion.

Meanwhile, under the rule of the U.S.-installed Saigon puppet administration, all strata of the people in towns and cities are living an extremely oppressive political life, all democratic freedoms are suppressed, any propensity to independence is quenched, the voices of patriots are silenced.

Fellow countrymen,

The war unleashed by the U.S. government in our country is becoming ever fiercer. The Vietnamese—who have independence, freedom, and peace at heart—have no other choice but to unite and stand up against aggression.

While the country's survival has been at stake, the successive puppet administrations (from King Bui Dinh down to Nguyen Van Thieu—Nguyen Cao Ky) have put themselves in the service of the foreign invader, and turned out the Fatherland and plunging our

people into misery and slavery.

Conscious of the dangers inherent in the present situation and our responsibility before history, before the present and future generations, we who eagerly love the country and earnestly desire independence and peace for the Fatherland, have rallied in the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and without being inhibited by our inadequate, boldly assume our responsibilities to all countrymen.

South Viet Nam must be independent.

The South Vietnamese people must enjoy democratic freedoms.

South Viet Nam must enjoy peace. Such are our most eager aspirations. True to this purpose, we solemnly proclaim to all countrymen and all countries in the world that our position is to unite all patriotic forces and individuals, to resolutely fight against foreign aggression, to completely overthrow the Nguyen Van Thieu—Nguyen Cao Ky puppet regime, to set up a national union government, to win independence, democracy and peace.

Once national sovereignty has been regained, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces will constantly unite all the patriotic forces and individuals to heal the wounds of war, carry out national construction and build up an independent, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous State.

The program of action of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces includes the following main points:

I. TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END, RESTORE PEACE, AND REGAIN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

a) The South Vietnamese people eagerly desire peace but a peace in honor and freedom. The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces stands for the recovery of South Viet Nam's independence and sovereignty; it demands that the U.S. government bring the war to an end, withdraw the U.S. and allied troops from South Viet Nam, dismantle the U.S. military bases, and respect the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam as provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

b) The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, a patriotic force which has been credited with the service of the foreign invader, and the U.S. government will be in the direction of the people in the

fight against foreign aggression during the past years, cannot be kept out of the settlement of any problem in South Viet Nam. We are for joint action and discussion with it and for joint efforts to be made to regain national independence, to restore peace, to build up the country and to achieve a free and happy life for the entire people.

2. TO BUILD SOUTH VIET NAM INTO AN INDEPENDENT, FREE, PEACEFUL, NEUTRAL AND PROSPEROUS STATE.

a) The political regime of South Viet Nam must be a republican regime in which the people enjoy genuine democratic freedoms. The democratic freedoms such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of belief, freedom of movement, freedom of meeting, freedom of organization, freedom of travel, etc., are guaranteed without any discrimination. All organs of State power are elected by the people through free and fair elections. All people's strata, men and women, all nationalities, all religious communities are represented in these organs. All Viet Nam's political strata are represented. The interests of the overseas Vietnamese are protected, the legitimate interests of foreign nationals in South Viet Nam are respected.

South Viet Nam's economy must be an independent, self-supporting and prosperous one. To this end, it is necessary to develop agriculture, encourage the growth of industry, commerce, communications and transport with a view to promoting the prosperity of the country; the interests of the labouring people and all other social strata must be attended to. South Viet Nam will carry out a program of fair and reasonable economic reforms to create a basis to develop agriculture, to raise the living standards and the purchasing power of the peasantry, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the national economy as a whole.

As an immediate step, after peace is restored, South Viet Nam, with a view to healing the war wounds and rebuilding and developing the economy, will call upon all countries to extend it an assistance, with no political strings attached, in capital, technique and skills.

Viet Nam is a country with an age-old culture. South Viet Nam will make every effort to do away with the sequel of depraved culture and to enhance to the utmost the fine traditions of our ancient and modern culture. South Viet Nam will do its best to promote social welfare and the system of education and examinations, to improve the life of national minorities, to care for the aged, the sick, the disabled, children, women, disabled and sick army men, and incapacitated civilians.

b) South Viet Nam will be an independent and fully sovereign State

with a foreign policy of non-alignment and will maintain good relations with all nations irrespective of political systems, provided that they really respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam. South Viet Nam attaches particular importance to the friendship with its neighbours—Cambodia and Laos.

3. ABOUT NATIONAL REUNIFICATION.

National reunification is the eager aspiration and the sacred duty of our entire people. At present, there are actually two different political systems in North and South Viet Nam. National reunification cannot be achieved on the basis of the two zones, North and South, should enter into discussions and negotiations on the basis of equality and due consideration for the specific features of each zone with a view to eventual peaceful reunification. Pending reunification, it is necessary to establish relations between the two zones in the fields of economy, culture, correspondence, traffic, etc. The South Vietnamese regrouped to the North will be free to return to South Viet Nam in accordance with their wish, and reversely North Vietnamese evacuated to the South will also be free to return to their native places.

Fellow countrymen,

The present situation is very serious and urgently calls for the union and joint action of all members of our society.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is confident that its goodwill and national salvation policy will be all other social strata must be attended to. South Viet Nam will carry out a program of fair and reasonable economic reforms to create a basis to develop agriculture, to raise the living standards and the purchasing power of the peasantry, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the national economy as a whole.

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Glorious victory will be ours!

April 1968

VIET NAM COURIER

SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. STATEMENT ON FOUNDING OF VIET NAM ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES

THE Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has elicited a warm reception and response from our entire people irrespective of social background and class, of nationality and religious belief, in the towns and the countryside alike. It has been approved and supported by large numbers of officers and men of the puppet army and personnel of the puppet administration. It has also received a warm welcome from our brothers and friends in the five continents.

In the light of this program, our entire people and armed forces have dashed forward in the flush of new victories and launched repeated military and political attacks on the enemy, from the towns to the countryside, and won unambiguously great and all-round victories in the first spring days of this year. The revolutionary spirit is sweeping South Viet Nam, paralyzing the U.S.-puppet's ruling

apparatus and speeding up its unacceptable collapse.

In this high tide of revolution, our people's fighting ranks have been further consolidated and broadened; many patriotic forces and individuals, and many units in the puppet army have melted and are struggling together with the entire people for peace, independence and freedom of the Fatherland. The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being and declared that its program of action is to resolutely oppose foreign aggression, completely overthrow the Nguyen Van Thieu—Nguyen Cao Ky puppet regime, set up a national union government, contact, discuss and join actions with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation so as to win back independence and sovereignty for the country, achieve peace, freedom and happiness for the entire people.

True to its national salvation

mission which is to unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow the puppet and stooge administration, found a broad national union and democratic administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and eventually achieve peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, from its unwavering policy of equal nationwide solidarity, and ready to join actions with all patriotic forces and individuals opposing the U.S. and its henchmen so as together to oppose the common enemy, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation feels greatly gratified at the emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. The Front declares its support for the political position and program of action of the Alliance, and is ready to join actions with it in the common fight for independence.

democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, a free and happy life for the entire people and the glorious peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation earnestly calls upon all forces and individuals who wish our people to be independent and free and everybody to enjoy peace and happiness, in these crucial hours of history, to place the interests of the Fatherland above all, join efforts, strengthen their solidarity and struggle to achieve the above-said objective at all costs.

The failure of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackey is a foregone conclusion. However, they remain very obstinate, crafty and cruel. Let our entire people and army enhance their solidarity and vigilance, sharpen their fighting will, follow up their victories with relentless offensives, smash all counter-attacks of the enemy, and win complete victory.

Giai Phong Press Agency Hails Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces

"WARM welcome to the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces—patriotic organization whose emergence coincides with the South Viet Nam liberation revolution's shift over to a new stage—that of relentless offensive and widespread uprisings," wrote *Giai Phong Press Agency* in a recent commentary.

The Agency quoted a message of greeting from the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation as stressing that of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is "a political event of great importance in the present juncture, marking a new, very significant development of the great solidarity bloc of our entire people in the struggle against the U.S. aggression and for national salvation." The Agency added:

"The traditional neo-colonialist policy of the

U.S. imperialists—the 'Big Stick and Carrot' policy—can be summed up in these two words: Repression and bribery, which, though temporarily successful in certain parts of the world, has completely and ingloriously gone down the drain in South Viet Nam, confronted with the solid fortress of great national unity of the entire Vietnamese nation."

The Agency said that with the coming into being of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, it has been further proved that the South Vietnamese people—the workers, peasants, labourers, public figures, intellectuals, teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, traders, or proprietors—all love their country ardently, all have in their veins the proud blood of a countless race."

The N.F.L., the Agency went on, enthusiastically acclaims the genuinely patri-

people, and the Thieu—Ky clique of traitors continue to seek out South Viet Nam's independence and sovereignty to the U.S. imperialists.

"It is precisely for this reason that the Alliance rightly 'stands for the recovery of South Viet Nam's independence and sovereignty,' and 'demands that the U.S. government bring the war to an end, withdraw the U.S. and allied troops from South Viet Nam, dismantle the U.S. military bases, and respect the independence, and sovereignty of Viet Nam as provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.'"

Speaking of the role of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the agency noted: "The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces recognizes and highly values the role of the N.F.L., and maintains that it is in agreement with the spirit of the N.F.L.'s Political Program."

Concerning the comprehension of the N.F.L. and the Alliance, the Agency said:

"The emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is the outcome of the protracted, arduous struggle of the people of various strata in South Viet Nam. The Alliance declares it is 'for joint action and discussion with

the N.F.L. and for joint efforts to be made to regain national independence, to restore peace, to build up the country, and to achieve a free and happy life for the entire people.'"

"For its part the N.F.L., loyal to its unwavering policy of uniting the largest possible sections of the people in the fight against the common enemy, will unite and side with the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces in the struggle for Viet Nam's sacred national rights at present as well as in national construction in the future."

The Agency added: "The N.F.L. also welcomes the Alliance's concrete policies concerning South Viet Nam's politics, economy, culture and foreign affairs, which have been expounded in the Alliance's National Salvation Manifesto, and are in agreement with the spirit of the N.F.L.'s Political Program."

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VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

Nationwide Anti-Viet Nam War Day in the United States (April 27, 1968)

WITHIN the framework of the campaign launched on April 27 by the "National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam," Americans in Washington and other cities participated in demonstrations and meetings in protest against the Viet Nam war waged by the U.S. government, foreign press agencies reported.

At a rally in Washington such slogans as "Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese!" and "Withdraw U.S. troops" were displayed.

Addressing the meeting, Prof. Freeman of Washington University condemned the Viet Nam war as illegal and unjust and denounced the lack of good will of the U.S. government in delaying and hindering preliminary contacts with the D.R.V.N.

Mrs. Etta Horst, an Afro-American pointed out that the United States was facing a profound social crisis resulting from the Viet Nam war. She declared: "Americans must insist that the U.S. government bring their sons home."

In New York, over 100,000 people held a rally in Central Park attended by many personalities in the U.S. peace movement, including William

Coffin, and Dellinger, Chairman of the National Mobilization Committee, who had organized the demonstration in New York. They urged the U.S. government to put an end to its war of aggression against the Vietnamese people and to its repression of the Black and the poor in the U.S.

Mrs. Martin Luther King, widow of the Black leader recently assassinated, also called for an end to the Viet Nam war, condemned racial segregation in the U.S. and appealed to the New York demonstrators to take part in "the march of the poor" on Washington scheduled for this week.

On April 27, students in New York went on strike and picketed the universities and colleges of Hunter Queens, etc. The American authorities in New York acknowledged that 75 per cent of secondary education pupils joined in demonstrations with the students.

In Chicago about 5,000 people staged a meeting and demonstration protesting against the Viet Nam war and the violent clashes with policemen.

In many other American states such as New England, Connecticut, Atlanta, Cincinnati, tens of thousands of students walked out.

On April 28, student leaders of colleges and seminars throughout the U.S. issued a statement declaring that the U.S. war in Viet Nam is "unjust and immoral." The statement was signed by student leaders of colleges and seminars in 49 out of 50 states in the U.S.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the anti-war movement in the U.S. demonstrations and meetings in support of Viet Nam were held in many countries.

On April 27, over 3,000 people in Toronto, (Canada) picketed the U.S. consulate, displaying slogans "Victory belongs to the South Viet Nam N.F.L." and demanding that the Canadian authorities stop supplying to the U.S. war materials for Viet Nam.

In Argentina, students in La Plata, Buenos Aires burnt the Stars and Stripes, distributed leaflets and chanted the slogan "U.S. get out of Viet Nam."

Mexican Ex-Student Voices Support for Viet Nam

LAZARO Cardenas, ex-President of Mexico, recently sent a letter to President Ho Chi Minh hailing the Vietnamese people's victories. The Mexican statesman conveyed to the Vietnamese people his admiration for their dauntless and valiant struggle to defend their national independence and territorial integrity against the U.S. imperialists' unjust and frenzied aggression which is condemned by public opinion the world over.

Nam" and held meetings to denounce the crimes committed by the G.I.'s against the South Vietnamese people. In Italy, on April 27, over 5,000 students paraded through the main thoroughfares of Rome despite the deployment of nearly 1,000 riot police, shouted slogans protesting against the U.S. aggressive imperialists and displayed the South Viet Nam N.F.L. flag.

In Denmark, on the night of April 27, the U.S. embassy was pelted with stones, adle eggs and rotten fruits in a 15,000-strong uproarous demonstration staged in Copenhagen in support of the legitimate struggle of the Vietnamese people.

In Japan, students clashed violently with policemen in a big rally held in Tokyo on the night of April 27 to expose the aggressive attitude of the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam and condemning the collusion between the Sato government and the U.S.

He wrote: Vietnamese people's self-sacrifice for national salvation and the losses sustained by the aggressors teach a lesson to the imperialists, and demonstrate that the material force of a strong nation cannot defeat a nation which, though small, is fighting for the right and justice and with a high sense of purpose to wreck back and defend its right to national independence and territorial integrity.

PROFESSOR Hoang Minh GIAM, head of the Delegation of Intellectuals of the D.R.V.N. to the Day of French Intellectuals for Viet Nam observed on March 23 this year in Paris, recently granted an interview to our magazine.

Following are the questions and answers:

Question 1: According to reports which have reached here, the Day of Intellectuals for Viet Nam has been a big success. Would you please tell us about this fine manifestation of French-Vietnamese solidarity in face of the U.S. war of aggression?

Answer: The Day of French Intellectuals for Viet Nam was a big event as much for the quantities as the quality of its attendance. There were, in fact, at least 10,000 French intellectuals at the meeting last March 23 at the Exhibition Park at La Porte de Versailles, in response to the organizers' appeal among them the most eminent representatives of French culture, from the most diverse branches of science, literature and arts, and the most diverse political tendencies but united by a common sympathy with our people and the same will to support them till victory.

The initiative to hold such a meeting dated a few months back in the form of an appeal signed by 17 intellectuals which were soon joined by hundreds, then thousands of others. 12,000 in Paris, 27, and 20,000 by early

FRENCH INTELLECTUALS' MEETING IN FAVOUR OF VIET NAM

April, on the eve of our departure from Paris. How to express the emotion of our delegation at the sight of this crowd who, on that sunny Saturday of Spring converged on the immense hall of the Exhibition Park to show their solidarity with our just cause, to affirm their friendship with Viet Nam! How to describe the warm sympathy, the inward light that illumined the faces of those thousands of men and women who came one after another into the room where the film *The 17th Parallel* by Joris Ivens was on a non-stop show, who stood before paintings and posters made by 100 French artists of all the other generations before the stand where books in Viet Nam were on sale!

A no less moving sight was in another corner of the hall where they had arranged five "round tables" on the Vietnamese culture, on the sanitary and medical work in Viet Nam, on the general situation in Viet Nam and on the anti-U.S. resistance and the "these tables" experts briefed a numerous and attentive audience on the Vietnamese U.S. aggressors, on the conditions in which they were

waging their arduous and victorious fight and on the most efficacious ways to contribute to their victory.

We took part in the first moments in the "round table" on the Vietnamese culture where poet Chi Luu read one of his poems. Last and not least, the general meeting was an unforgettable occasion. In the room, 10,000 intellectuals gathered and listened attentively, sharing the same feeling, the same fervor, the same "for Viet Nam!" On the agenda: more than a score of addresses and messages of intellectuals from France, Viet Nam and the United States, alternating with many Vietnamese and American poems recited by French artists of great renown. Speakers and artists, each in his own way and with all his heart and talent expressed his profound conviction and the unanimous will of all without reserving each other, without repeating the same words and to illustrate that was not for a moment tired of listening, the audience was attentive and demanded the U.S. imperialist aggressors, paid tribute to the Vietnamese people, brought out the significance of their victorious resistance and affirmed the strong determination to sup-

"I want to tell you and together with you: all for Viet Nam... It is a fact that all the modern history of the people of Viet Nam. I admire the enormous courage of the Vietnamese. What they are doing for their victory, nobody could ever conceive. They are a people of knights." Elia Triolo expressed her admiration for the women of Viet Nam in these terms: "Never perhaps has the concept of a woman been so clear, so visible as it is in the women of our Viet Nam. I wish her decision of Viet Nam to be before them, a biologist René Noseran, after praising the 'qualities of the Vietnamese woman' and the 'best of the victory of the Vietnamese people' together our voice and our strength as we are doing now and will do in the near future!"

It is natural that American violence against North Viet Nam, on this occasion aroused great enthusiasm. Here is an American, who, being unable to attend the meeting, declared in his message read out by Professor Kastner, Nobel Physics prize winner, that "nothing can justify the U.S. aggression and intervention and war and demand the respect for the national rights of the Vietnamese people. Picasso declared in his message read by Jean Vilat:

(Continued page 11)

News from LAOS

Lao Patriotic Forces' Dry Season Victories

THE High Command of the Lao Liberation People's Army has recently issued a communiqué on the great victories won by the patriotic armed forces in the first five months of this dry season, Pathet Lao News Agency KPL reported.

According to still incomplete figures, from November 1967, the patriotic armed forces fought nearly 600 battles on all the Lao territory, putting out of action 11,270 enemy troops (5,474 killed, 1,186 wounded and 4,610 soldiers who deserted or went over to the people's forces).

The patriots dived or destroyed on the ground 96 planes, sank 24 war vessels, destroyed 34 military vehicles and 7 bridges. They captured 3,070 firearms, hundreds of radio sets and nearly 1,000 tons of munitions and military equipment.

The communiqué stressed that these big victories are a shining light on the following characteristics:

- 1) Enemy casualties doubled those in the last dry season and involved regular troops and a great number of army officers and technicians.
- 2) The number of units put out of action was greater than in the last dry season. In the last season, all enemy units wiped out were of companies.

- 3) The patriots forced liberated vast regions and regained control over many important areas, illegally seized by the enemy;
- 4) The people's war was stepped up everywhere. The number of units of patriotic armed forces (regular army, regional troops and guerrillas) increased by 20 per cent. Their actions on all battlefields.

NEWSWEEK Shows L.B.J.'s Cloven Hoof

THE April 15, 1968 issue of Newsweek contains some interesting relations on Johnson's ulterior motive behind his decision to issue "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam.

The American magazine discloses for instance that "so far as the President's decision to change course went, it was the result of a last year old" when the then Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, "concerned over the apparent ineffectiveness of the bombing campaign against North Viet Nam," proposed to Johnson several solutions including the limitation of the bombing to the southern part of Viet Nam. Although that solution had "the enthusiastic support of many civilian strategists," Johnson "ignored the counsel of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Walt W. Rostow, the Assistant Secretary for National Security Affairs, and in August lifted some of the most important restrictions previously placed upon

pany size, in the first five months of this dry season, 5 regiments, 33 battalions and 11 companies were completely wiped out or decimated.

Not only did the patriotic forces attack enemy troops who went illegally across the liberated area and mounted nibbling attacks, but they also penetrated behind the enemy's lines and stormed enemy C.P.A.s and airfields.

The patriotic armed forces also destroyed important refugees of the pirates maintained by the Yankees such as at Pa Thi (San Nam), U-Tay and Ueneu (Luang Prabang).

Apart from puppet troops, many American and satellite "advisors" and military personnel were put out of action. In the battles at Muong Hien and Pa Thi, 21 American "advisors" and their militarymen were killed or wounded;

- 5) The patriots forced liberated vast regions and regained control over many important areas, illegally seized by the enemy;
- 6) The people's war was stepped up everywhere. The number of units of patriotic armed forces (regular army, regional troops and guerrillas) increased by 20 per cent. Their actions on all battlefields.

News from CAMBODIA

U.S. Imperialists and Quislings' Provocations Against Cambodia

AS reported by the Khmer Press Agency, the Cambodian Foreign Ministry has recently issued a statement in which the U.S. government's protest against the fact that on March 13, 1968, a unit of G.I.'s and puppet troops of a P.L. in Chant Doe province (South Viet Nam) crossed the Cambodian border as far as 500 metres inside and shot at local workers, killing a Cambodian. On March 21, another unit of G.I.'s and puppet soldiers of Cai Vang post (South Viet Nam) violated Cambodian territory of Srey Rieng province and fired at

a Cambodian patrol, killing one man and seriously wounding another.

The Cambodian government insistently demanded that the U.S. authorities put an end to their crimes against Cambodia and pay damages to the victims' families.

The Cambodian Foreign Ministry also sent a note to the Thai authorities protesting against Thai troops' intrusion on March 31 and April 2 into the Cambodian territory of Battambang province, causing the death of a Cambodian patrol, causing 2 dead and one wounded.

On April 1, 1968, a U.S. military plane violated the Cambodian air space over Koh Kong island. Using their right of self-defence, the Cambodian naval forces meted out a well-deserved punishment to the aggressors. One of the predatory plane was hit by bullets of the Cambodian Navy.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has denounced this crime of the U.S. imperialists before world public opinion and demanded that they put an end to all provocative acts and give up their schemes of aggression against Cambodia.

French Intellectuals' Meeting ...

(Continued from page 10)

White House and the Pentagon. Arthur Miller, the famous playwright, in his message condemned the Yankee imperialism as "the worst enemy of human dignity," and affirmed his unreserved support to the French intellectuals and the other, to the world intellectuals.

Question 2: Without doubt, the delegates of the intellectuals of Viet Nam were warmly welcomed by our French friends, weren't they?

Answer: The representatives of Viet Nam were accorded an extremely friendly welcome.

The whole audience gave a long-standing ovation to Tran Hoi Nam, delegate of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, who stepped up to the forum, to the delegation of intellectuals of the French Republic of Viet Nam, to Mai Van Bo, our Delegate General in France, and to the three Vietnamese speeches by Tran Hoi Nam, Che Lan, and Hoang Minh Giam, as had been anticipated, were paid particular attention and enthusiastically applauded were passages related to our beloved and respected President Ho Chi Minh, symbol of the determination, calmness, wisdom of our people, and to the N.F.L. and President Nguyen Huu Thuo, and the successes recorded by the people's war, in South as well as North Viet Nam.

Question 3: What resolutions were finally passed? It seems that the meeting was to pay tribute to a day of world intellectuals for Viet Nam?

Answer: After the address by Walter

Vercors on the role of intellectuals in the movement of solidarity with Viet Nam, this great day was marked with the approval of two messages of friendship and support to the Vietnamese and American intellectuals, and two appeals, one to the French intellectuals and the other, to the world intellectuals.

The appeal to the French intellectuals called on these to hold meetings on the pattern of the one on March 23 in major French cities, to continue the collection of signatures and money to cover spendings in propaganda for actions in favour of the Vietnamese people.

The appeal to the world intellectuals proposed to them the preparation of an international day of intellectuals for Viet Nam.

BEFORE leaving, Professor Hoang Minh Giam added, by way of conclusion to our interview: "The Day of French Intellectuals for Viet Nam was a memorable date in the history of the movement of international solidarity with our people's struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. It is with a mixed feeling of pride and gratitude that our delegation took part in the day. Our Delegation seized all the opportunities to the history of the gratitude of our people and intellectuals to the French people and intellectuals, the medium of Viet Nam Courier "Thank you to our friends in France."

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

★ Over 2,000 U.S. - Puppet Troops Killed or Wounded in Khe Sanh - Highway 9 Sector between April 20 and May 1.

★ 1,400 Others Put out of Action in 2 Weeks in Saigon Area.

KHE SANH-HIGHWAY 9 SECTOR

ON April 20 a U.S. position west of Ca Lu came under attack and suffered 90 G.I.'s casualties. The next day, in a valley further to the southwest, the P.L.A.F. engaged 2 U.S. companies, killing or wounding 103 of their men.

On April 23, "cavalrymen" of the U.S. First Air Mobile Division attempted to retake Lang Vay were pounded by the P.L.A.F. artillerymen on 5 occasions; 120 G.I.'s bodies were left on the terrain and 2 choppers destroyed. The survivors who pulled back into the former Lang Vay strategic hamlet area, were heavily shelled on the following day.

On April 28, in an ambush on Highway No. 9 east of Khe Sanh, the P.L.A.F. destroyed 4 trucks and wiped out 60 G.I.'s.

All told, according to preliminary reports, the Americans lost in the Khe Sanh sector between April 20 and 28 at least 400 men killed or wounded, 8 choppers and 2 planes shot down or destroyed and 2 tanks and 4 trucks put out of commission.

In the sector east of High-

way 9, 5 successive shelling were reported against U.S. troops sent in on April 24 to reinforce a position south of Con Tin; 153 G.I.'s were killed or wounded.

The big U.S. Dong Ha base was violently plastered on April 27; an ammo dump was blown up, a freighter sunk and a U.S. platoon destroyed. In the nearby area, sharp fighting on April 29 caused serious losses to the enemy troops; about 1,000 G.I.'s were killed and 65 puppet troops killed or captured respectively 1 km northeast and 5 km northeast of Dong Ha. On the same day near Cam Lo 100 other G.I.'s were killed or wounded and 7 tanks destroyed near Duoi Bridge and 2 platoons wiped out (including 1 American), 2 tanks destroyed on Highway 9, section between Cam Lo and Dong Ha.

On Cua Viet river linking Dong Ha to the sea, 3 enemy cargo ships were sunk on the morning of April 30 while north of Dong Ha the P.L.A.F. closed in upon 4 U.S. companies, wiping out and decimating 2. The following day, May 1, the P.L.A.F. fought all day long in the northeast of Dong Ha against an important American force which was routed at 5 p.m., leaving on the battlefield many tanks and a great quan-

ntity of war materials and taking 500 casualties.

In total, between April 20 (and May 1, over 2,000 enemy soldiers were put out of action in the north of Quang Tri province (1,330 in the last 3 days, including 1,050 G.I.'s).

HUE SECTOR

IN an effort to remove the constant pressure of the people's armed forces on their positions in this city, the Americans launched an operation in the area of provincial route No. 12, a road running parallel to Highway No. 9 and situated 300 km further southeast.

As reported in the previous issue of this paper, in the first 5 days, 41 helicopters were grounded (34 on April 19 when the operation began) and 650 U.S. paratroops and cavalrymen killed or wounded.

Giai Phong Press Agency further reported on the enemy losses in the 3 days ending April 23: 150 G.I.'s killed, 100 wounded, 6 more choppers downed and 4 others damaged and 5 military vehicles destroyed.

In the coastal plain of Hue, the P.L.A.F. on April 20 fought a battle to the enemy 6 km north of the city, putting 140 adversaries out of action.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO

IN the Da Nang area, heavy engagements were reported with 3 battalions of puppet Regiment 31 and South Korean mercenaries at Go Noi (less than 25 km south of the U.S. big base); in 3 days, from April 18 to 20, 200 enemy troops were put out of action by the P.L.A.F. In addition, from April 15 to 17, 128 G.I.'s were killed or wounded in 8 battles between Da Nang and Chu Lai, in an area some 30 km northwest of Chu Lai.

Further south, a sweep involving 8 U.S. and puppet battalions came to a complete stop southwest of Quang Ngai city; the enemy suffered 250 casualties between April 8 and 17.

In Binh Dinh province, in the first 10 days of April, the P.L.A.F. killed, wounded or captured 1,110 enemy soldiers (among them 512 G.I.'s and 300 South Korean mercenaries) and destroyed 18 vehicles, 14 cannons and 18 copters. In the Western High Plateaus between April 1 and 20, in Gia Lai province with Pleiku as its capital, 400 adverse troops including 128 G.I.'s were wiped out, and 60 vehicles, 6 aircraft and 2 cannons destroyed.

SAIGON AREA

IN Bien Hoa province, northwest of Saigon, the P.L.A.F. fought 2 successful battles. On April 18, 190 G.I.'s were killed or wounded at Lam Nguyn when a U.S. battalion was

attacked, and on April 21, another U.S. battalion was assaulted near Trang Bom (20 km east of Bien Hoa) and lost about 100 men. The inclusion of 2 other combats which took place on April 4 and 7, the enemy lost at least 470 dead or wounded in this province during Operation Complete Victory.

On May 1, during 65 km northwest of Saigon (30 km northwest of Saigon) 3 gun-attacks mounted by the guerrillas and regional troops on April 17 and 18 resulted in 170 G.I.'s being put out of action, 15 tanks and armoured cars destroyed and 3 copters knocked out. Thus, the enemy operations to disengage the approaches to Saigon in this sector turned out to be disastrous, since in the first 10 days of April, he had already lost 206 men, 54 tanks and armoured cars and 17 copters and planes in the neighbouring district of Ben Cat (50 km north of Saigon).

About 20 km northeast of the U.S. aero-naval base of "Yung" was an American unit in action was violently attacked on April 25. The half-an-hour battle cost the U.S. 200 G.I.'s and wounded 25 tanks and armoured cars and 30 trucks destroyed and a chopper cut down.

In Long An province, between April 18 and 22, the P.L.A.F. put out enemy soldiers, put 200 copters and brought down aircraft during several combats, all less than 30 km south - southwest of Saigon.

Finally, further south, 40 km from Saigon, fighting on April 21 and 22 took more than 100 U.S. - puppet casualties.

A NEW BLUFF:

"Vietnamization" of the War in South Viet Nam

THE Saigon government has utterly failed to earn the confidence of the people. The South Vietnamese army has ceased to fight."

He who so bitterly commented the powerlessness of the Saigon administration and army is none other than an American senator, Stephen Young.

In spite of denials by Johnson and his aides, the offensive launched by the People's Liberation Armed Forces and the people's uprisings over the last months have dealt a mortal blow to the U.S. war machine in South Viet Nam. The puppet army have lost 300,000 men (including desertions), i. e. half of its effectiveness. U.S. troops did not come out of the trial unscathed either; 45,000 of them, along with foreign mercenaries, were knocked out.

"VIETNAMIZATION" OF THE WAR?

SPeAKING on March 31, 1968, the United States president bluntly reminded his servants in Saigon: "The main burden of preserving their freedom must be carried by the South Vietnamese themselves... On their efforts, on their determination, and resourcefulness, the outcome will ultimately depend." And he mapped out a whole program for them to implement: "The South Vietnamese know that further efforts are required: to expand their armed forces," etc.

On April 12, Clifford Johnson's new Defence Secretary, decided to "shift the heavy responsibilities for the war on the South Vietnamese." He promised to equip the puppet

army with up-to-date weapons which thus far the American forces alone had been armed with.

The appointment of General Abrams, responsible for the arrival in Saigon for the training and reorganization of the puppet troops, to replace Westmoreland, was part of the "Vietnamization" program of the war.

In Saigon Thieu hurriedly clutched at this straw. On April 1 he called upon the "Senate" to pass a general-mobilization bill. It is anticipated in Saigon that this will supply 280,000 new recruits.

As presented by its protagonists, this measure offers many advantages. It will help to tide over the difficulties accompanying conscription in the United States itself. It will strengthen the position of the puppet administration which, together with the puppet army, serves as a screen for the war of aggression. It will lighten the burden of U.S. finances which is no minor advantage: haven't the Americans reckoned that the deepening economic crisis over the times cheaper than that of G.I.'s? Above all, general mobilization will make it possible to placate American opinion increasingly hostile to Johnson's Viet Nam policy. Whether it will materialize or not, it is intended for the time being to produce

a psychological effect, in the U.S.A. first.

THE WHITE ELEPHANT

BUT where there is a will there is not always a way.

In the politico-military context of South Viet Nam, is general mobilization feasible, and paying?

Senators "nurture no illusion. One of them, former commander of the 1st Army Corps, ironically said: to get the required troop-strength everybody from 10 to 70 years of age must be drafted.

The occupied zone has shrunk in the past few months. Far from being reliable rear areas, the towns have become front-lines. And instead of serving as cannon-fodder the urban youths have gone to the liberated zone to enlist in the P.L.A.F.

Moreover, with a beering-up of even 100,000 or 200,000 men raise the morale of the puppet troops and lead to military successes? There is very good reason to doubt it.

Hadn't one witnessed, under Ngo Dinh Diem, Washington waging war by proxy? A 500,000-strong army of mercenaries trained, armed and paid by the Americans was unleashed under the command of U.S. "advisers" against the South Viet-

namese people. The net outcome was its imminent collapse in late 1964. Washington was unable to "Americanize" the war. Towards the beginning of 1965 an expeditionary force was introduced, whose strength was increased to half a million man. New setback. In June 1967 Abrams was sent to Saigon, specially in charge, under Westmoreland, of the training and reorganization of the puppet troops. What has happened? We have given the answer at the very beginning, and shall not repeat it.

Now the Americans speak again of "Vietnamizing" the war. What a vicious circle! The Americans, who hardly conceals a clumsy bluff!

Washington's new formula only expresses the strife prevailing among its valets who vie in displaying real to their master.

The Saigon senate, though agreeing in principle to general mobilization did not pass Thieu's bill. It refused to proclaim the state of emergency and to give him the full powers he had asked for. According to AFP 33 of 12:40 "senators" voted a motion demanding the resignation of the Nguyen Van Loc cabinet. Put to the test, the governmental machinery came up painfully. Bunker did not seem to work well.

All those factional strifes weaken the commanding apparatus of the puppet army.

One may say that under the redoubtable blows of the P.L.A.F. the decay of this disparate army continues. It is a white elephant for the U.S. troopers and the Saigon get rid of it. For it is the only pine-leaf hiding the nakedness of the aggressors.